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## EDITORIAL.

**The Need of an American "Leuniss."** — Of making books, we are told, there is no end; but there is one kind of book which we Americans need which has yet to be made. The greatest desideratum is a work after the pattern of the German "Leuniss," which is in constant use in every laboratory and museum abroad, but which is unrepresented by any corresponding work in the English language. It is now many years since Leuniss issued the first edition of a synopsis of the three kingdoms of nature, and the work now consists of seven large volumes, two treating of zoölogy, three of botany, and two of mineralogy and geology. These give general accounts of the various groups and follow by giving analytical keys to the principal families, genera, and species, the typical forms being illustrated by thoroughly characteristic engravings. As we have said, there is nothing to correspond in the English language, and for American students a translation would be of little value, as our flora, fauna, and geology are so different from those of central Europe. What we must have is a similar work in which American forms are made prominent. It is true that we have several manuals which include parts of our forms: Jordan has treated of our vertebrates, Gray some of our flowering plants; there is a considerable literature upon insects, ferns, mosses, etc., but the general work has yet to be written. No one man can do the work; it must be by the coöperation of several or even many specialists, and we have in our country the necessary specialists to produce a work which will be far ahead of its German prototype. In the hands of our publishers, our magazines, and of the United States government, are numbers of cuts which could be available for illustration. We wish that we were able to announce that such a work was in preparation, but unfortunately no intimations of the prospects of such a work have reached us. The *American Naturalist* will do all in its power to further such a work, should it be undertaken.